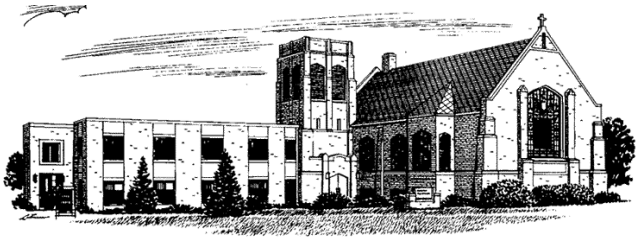


SARON NEWSLETTER

Saron Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA)
510 Main Street
St. Joseph, Michigan 49085

Website: www.saronlutheran.org
Email: info@saronlutheran.org
Phone: 269-983-1273
Facebook: www.facebook.com/saronlutheranchurchst.joseph

July 2019

There are those months when some of the greatest highs and lows mingle. This has been one of those months for me. I write this having just attended the funeral of my brother, the first of my siblings to die. A gentle soul, ravished by the likes of Lewy Body Dementia. We gathered, we reminisced, we laughed, we cried, and we heard the Gospel proclaimed of God's love for each of us in life and in death.

At the end of this week we will be celebrating the marriage of one of our daughters. Again, there will be those of us who will gather, share stories, laugh, and if history proves itself, tears (it's in my DNA after all), and we will make memories. We will hear the Gospel proclaimed, celebrate God's love for the newly married, and witness vows "until death parts us."

My experience this month is not unique. It's the experience of life that surrounds each of us. It's the experience that comes out of love that takes us to the heights and depths of emotion. And, in the midst of it all, we have a Savior who makes our sorrowing spirit sing. How fitting, then, that we sang at the funeral the song sung at my brother and his wife's marriage service, 48 years before. I share the last verse with you here.

Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration,
now and forevermore be thine!

Pastor Joan

The Rev. Joan Oleson, Pastor
Home: 269-983-2475
Email: oleson@saronlutheran.org

Marcus Roll, Senior Choir Director,
Bell Choir Director
Email: roll1mc@gmail.com
Irma Gorman, Organist
Margaret Froehlich, Administrative Assistant
Megan Savage Financial Secretary
Email: financial@saronlutheran.org
Emily Gaul, Child Care

Sundays at Saron:
Summers (thru Labor Day weekend):
9:30 Holy Communion
Childcare provided
No Learning Hour

During the School Year:
8:30 & 11:00 A.M. Worship
Childcare provided
9:40 Learning for Ages 2 – Adult

All are welcome!

We hold in prayer:
The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton,
Presiding Bishop, ELCA
The Rev. Dr. Craig Satterlee, Bishop of the
North/West Lower Michigan Synod, ELCA
The Rev. Whayne Hougland, Bishop of the Episcopal
Diocese of Western MI

Our Companion Synods:
Christian Lutheran Church of Honduras
Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea
Lutheran Church of Latvia

Saron's Mission:
Joyfully sharing God's love for all!!

Caring and Sharing

In Our Prayers –

We remember in our thoughts and prayers: **Arla Huelsberg** is at the Whitcomb Tower Retirement Center, St. Joseph; **Lila Roethel** is at the Willows; **Bernice Koski** is at Woodland Terrace; **Virginia Anserello** is at Pine Ridge, Stevensville.

Office Hours at Saron
Margaret (secretary): Mon-Tues, 9 AM - 1 PM
Weds of Newsletter Week, 9 AM - 1 PM
Volunteers: Weds, 9:30 AM - 11 AM+
Financial Secretary: Megan Savage
Call the office for more information.
When Pastor is out of town, emergency pastoral care information can be obtained by calling the church office (983.1273) or contacting the president of the congregation.
Note: E-mails meant for Pastor should be addressed to oleson@saronlutheran.org. E-mails to Margaret and the church office should be addressed to info@saronlutheran.org.

Happy Birthday Wishes to Saron's Members in July 2019

July 3 - Ellie Hammer
4 – Andrew Huff
7 - Preston Akers
8 - Elliott de la Foret
9 – Barbara Stelter
11 - Thomas Freemire
12 - Scott Gaspari
14 - Kylie Hammer
17 - Andrew Gustafson
Aaron Becker
21 - Marge Teal
23 – Lauren (Olson) Kauffman
25 – John Koehler
Richard Osgood
26 – Pastor Joan Oleson
Robert Hopkins
28 - Jennifer Nicholas
29 – Ilo Coar

Happy Anniversary Wishes to Saron's Members In July 2019

July 3 – Adam and Shavonn Bradley
4 - Robert and Gloria Hopkins
7 – Marcus Roll and Beth Gray-Roll
12 – Rian and Judi Huff
14 – Gus Leoni and Wendy King
Joseph and Katherine Ulrey
15 – James and Katherine Nadeau
25 – Brent and Linda Dipert
26 – Nick and Kati (Huff) Hooper
John and Candy Taylor

"God's Blessings for a very happy day and year round"

If there is anyone who has been omitted, or, if the dates are incorrect from the birthday and anniversary list, please call the church office at 983-1273. Thank you.

Graduate

We extend God's blessing to Michael Hoodlebrink who graduated in June from MSU.

Congratulations

Congratulations and best wishes to Kati and Nick Hooper upon the birth of Elliott Charles on May 24.

WITH JOY

With joy we welcome Becky Lynne Bucha into the community of faith at Saron through Holy Baptism on June 16, 2019. Becky's sponsors were Douglas and Janis Bucha and Tom Palmer.

Welcome!

We welcome those who were received into membership at Saron on June 23. They were Laura Kroening; Carolyn Parker; Rich, Dawn, Addison, and Ava Osgood.

With sympathy

We extend our sympathy to the families of C'Ella Williams upon her death, May 12, and Helena Kepp upon her death on May 19.

Also, to Pastor Joan and Jim upon the death of Pastor's brother, Ralph Wagstaff, on June 6.
God is our refuge and strength. Psalm 46:1a

Thank you!
Thank you to all who participated in the Hicks benefit, by offering your musical gifts, or by your attendance. We give thanks to God for your generosity! A total of $2,615.00 was raised!

FORTIFY & fly

Straining to hear at outdoor and special services can really pull you out of the moment. Thankfully, that will soon be a problem of the past for Saron. The Technology Committee has been working hard the last month researching, getting quotes, and submitting proposals for a portable sound system and keyboard, as well as a video doorbell at the office entrance, a large screen TV and cart, and updated internet service with expanded WiFi capabilities. We are also pleased to announce the arrival of the AED (automated external defibrillator) that was on our Fortify & Fly wish list but was instead generously provided thanks to a grant. See the associated article for more information. Another check off the maintenance list this month - painting around the exterior of the windows! Don't they look nice with a fresh coat to protect them from the elements?

As of the end of May, we had collected $152,651 towards our 3 year pledge total of $371,165. We are so close to our 2019 estimated collections of $154,005! It will be exciting to see if we can keep up that momentum through the summer!

***AED* Donation from S.C.A.R.F.**

One of the planned technology items for Project Fortify & Fly is the acquisition of an AED (Automatic External Defibrillator) to have on hand for cardiac emergencies. David Lundgren recommended that Saron apply for a grant with the Sudden-Cardiac Arrest Research Foundation (S.C.A.R.F.) in Illinois. The grant was submitted and accepted. The AED was delivered to the church on May 29th by Dr.

Nerihan (Nick) Hadji, a member of the Foundation and an Internal Medicine Intern at Lakeland Hospital. David Lundgren is a certified Red Cross instructor and will provide CPR/AED training. The Church Council has budgeted to provide the Red Cross Certification fee to the first 12 people to sign up for training. Maximum class size is 15. Training will take place **July 6, 2019, from 9:00 am to noon**. If you are interested in the training, please contact Pastor Oleson.

Worship

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

As you prepare for worship, you are invited to read and reflect on the Scriptures for the day.

Sunday, July 7 –
Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
Isaiah 66:10-14
Psalm 66:1-9
Galatians 6:[1-16
Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

Sunday, July 14 –
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
Deuteronomy 30:9-14
Psalm 25:1-10 (4)
Colossians 1:1-14
Luke 10:25-37

Sunday, July 21 –
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
Genesis 18:1-10a
Psalm 15
Colossians 1:15-28
Luke 10:38-42

Sunday, July 28 -
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
Genesis 18:20-32
Psalm 138 (8)
Colossians 2:6-19
Luke 11:1-13

Nursery News

Our child care provider Emily is great at playing with the children. You can hang-out in the background, help with a puzzle, or build a brick tower; sometimes you get to hold a baby! We are always looking for more volunteers to keep this service available. Since we have gone to one service, each person should only serve once until the fall. For any questions or to sign up, contact Marilyn Lucy.

BEACH WORSHIP

Once again we are offering an evening worship experience at Lions Park – in the pavilion closest to the water treatment plant. The dates are July 17, and August 14. Hot dogs provided; bring a dish to pass as you are able. Supper at 6 p.m. and worship at 7 p.m.

PRAYER GROUP

Join us on Mondays at 11:00 a.m. for a time of quiet reflection and prayer, which includes lifting up the requests offered on Sundays at worship. We meet in the sanctuary.

2019 FLOWER CALENDAR

The 2019 flower calendar is posted. Cost: $25.00/vase. This is an opportunity for you to give flowers in honor or memory of someone. The church orders the flowers (unless you indicate otherwise) and you can take the flowers home after 2nd service.

Youth

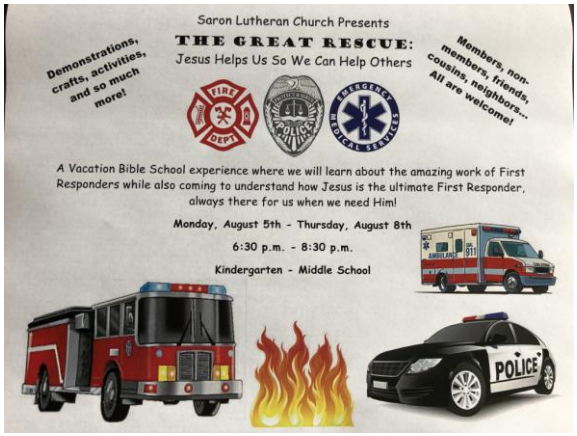
The middle school/high school youth group will be meeting on July 25 the group will meet at the Gaspari's. Are you in grades 6-12? We hope you can join us. For more info, contact Scott at scottgaspari@outlook.com or (Cell) 847-373-8825.

Learning book of faith
Open Scripture. Join the Conversation.

Saron is a congregation seeking to become more fluent in the first language of faith, the language of Scripture, in order that we might live into our calling as a people renewed, enlivened, empowered and sent by the Word.

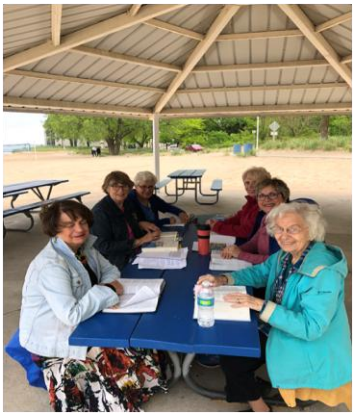
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Saron Learning Committee will facilitate "The Great Rescue, Jesus helps us so we can help others," a vacation bible school experience where we will learn about the amazing work of First Responders while also coming to understand how Jesus is the ultimate First Responder. Vacation Bible School will be Aug 5 – 8, 2019 from 6:30 to 8:30 in the evening. Reservations for children ages Kindergarten – Middle School (younger ages can be discussed) going on now by contacting Kristen Harper, Amanda Bradley or the church office at 269-983-1273.


Saron Lutheran Church Presents
THE GREAT RESCUE:
Jesus Helps Us So We Can Help Others
Demonstrations, crafts, activities, and so much more!
Members, non-members, friends, cousins, neighbors... All are welcome!
A Vacation Bible School experience where we will learn about the amazing work of First Responders while also coming to understand how Jesus is the ultimate First Responder, always there for us when we need Him!
Monday, August 5th - Thursday, August 8th
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Kindergarten - Middle School
POLICE

Beach Study

This summer we will join at Lions Park Beach for Bible study on Tuesdays at 8:30 am. Wear your jacket, bring a cup of coffee (if desired), and we will study the Scripture for the following Sunday and join in prayer. The conversation usually lasts 45 min to an hour.



Tuesday Evening Men's Bible Study

Saron Men's Bible Study meets every Tuesday at 6:00pm at the church then at 7:00pm we adjourn and all are invited to join in for something to eat and/or drink at Azul Tequila. If you have questions, feel free to call Bob Kynast at 269-921-2786 or bobkynast@gmail.com.

EPHESUS BIBLE STUDY GROUP

The Ephesus group will meet on July 7 at the home of Linda and Charlie Pater, beginning at 5 pm. The evening will include a lesson, light meal, and time for conversation. Please call the Paters if you would like to join the group that evening -- all are welcome.

Men's monthly Bible Devotions and Breakfast

There will be NO Men's Bible Devotions/Breakfast during the summer months, we will resume again in October.

1ST SUNDAY BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Here is the list of new reads for our 2019-2020 discussion season:

October 6, 2019 "Where the Crawdads Sing," by Delia Owens
November 3, 2019 "Before We Were Yours," by Lisa Wingate
December 1, 2019 "Once Upon a River," by Diane Setterfield
February 9, 2020 (2nd Sunday) "Killers of the Flower Moon", by David Grann
March 1, 2020 "The Story of Arthur Truluv," by Elizabeth Berg
April 5, 2020 "Year of Wonders; A Novel of the Plague," by Geraldine Brooks
May 3, 2020 "The Wife," by Meg Wolitzer

There are book marks with all this information available in the Narthex. Thanks to Marilyn Lucy for making them to share. Have a wonderful summer of good, relaxing reading. Our group will come together again in October. If you love to read, we would love to have you join us. Questions? Contact Kathy Cowall (269-428-0354) or kcowall@hotmail.com.

"Dinosaurs did not read. Look what happened to them." (Unknown)

Women of the ELCA.

Deborah Circle

Deborah Circle will gather on Wednesday, July 10th, 2019 for dinner at 6:00 p.m. at the LakeHouse Restaurant in St. Joseph.

Save the date

Save the date and plan to join the fun on a bus trip to Meijer Gardens on August 22! Details will be available soon. Sponsored by W/ELCA -- Deborah Circle; proceeds will be given to Samaritas and a local project tbd.

Support

A Special Message for Travelers and Those Who Prefer Electronic Giving

Saron offers the option to give electronically for your convenience. Please contact the church office if you have any questions or to enroll. Thanks.

SAVE THE DATE – September 15, 2019

Been putting off preparing your will or think your existing estate plan needs a review? We can help! The Project Fortify & Fly Planned Giving Committee is sponsoring an Estate Planning Seminar presented by the ELCA Foundation after the second service on Sunday, September 15, 2019. All group and individual counseling services provided by the ELCA Foundation are free to members. We think the seminar will be of interest and of benefit to everyone in the congregation. More details will follow in the next few weeks, but for now, don't make lunch plans for that day!

STOCK DONATIONS

Saron partners with TD Ameritrade, a brokerage firm, to accept stock donations. If you would like to donate stock, e-mail Matt Bradley to receive the account number for which the shares will be transferred to. Once the transaction has been completed, e-mail Matt Bradley the name of the stock, the number of shares, and the date of the transfer. This allows the transaction to be completed and ensures it is included on your giving statement. Thanks!
Matt Bradley, treasurer

Are you a Thrivent member?

If you are, you have an opportunity to help with the funding of a work project, as coordinated through our Outreach or Facilities teams. Please let Janet Oleson or Pastor know if you are a member, have interest or questions.

Hospitality

Sign Up for Refreshments

Please consider signing up for refreshments to be served after worship on Sundays. There is a sign-up sheet on the Narthex bulletin board.

Outreach

BENTON HARBOR SOUP KITCHEN

On May 23rd Saron made a difference in the lives of the 137 people who joined us for a ham dinner at the Benton Harbor Soup Kitchen. Thanks to all who support this ministry with your prayers, donations, & work – God's Gifts Our Hands! This month Saron' s workers were helped by students & a teacher from Brookview Montessori School, thank you Maggie, Alice & Alec! (You must be 12 yrs old to work in the SK). Also thanks to our other volunteers: Ruth Ball, Pastor Joan, Wendy King, & Dave & Kathie Bradley and the cookie bakers, Colleen Lundgren, Kris Weber, Amy Nelson, Deanna Deaton, Karen Hinckley & Marilyn Lucy.

Large cans of fruit are always needed at the Soup Kitchen & can be dropped off anytime at the church. Any questions or to volunteer or provide cookies please contact Kathie Bradley at 269-427-7083.

INCLUSIVITY TASK FORCE

A task force at Saron has been looking at issues of welcome and inclusivity and how to best live into our mission of "joyfully sharing God's love for all!!!" Serving on the task force are Kati and Nick Hooper, Laurel Gacek, Laura Hicks, and Pastor. Contact any of these folks if you would like to know more.

JUNE'S MISSION MOMENT

Each month we will be featuring a ministry of Saron – either a direct ministry, or one that is ours as a member of the ELCA.

Samaritas, formerly Lutheran Social Services of Michigan, celebrates 85 years of "serving people and an expression of the love of Christ." It serves people of all ages and backgrounds through services such as adoption, foster care, refugee services, disability services, affordable housing and an array of services for seniors. They provide 127 services across the state at 75 locations. For more information, visit samaritas.org.

TINY HOUSES FOR BIG CHANGE

Watch for details on how much Saron raised for this project. Tiny Houses for Big Change raises money to help the homeless in southwest Michigan. You can also get more information and donate through https://www.gofundme.com/65ha1uo. Interfaith Action is helping with this endeavor

Readiness Center

Saron is partnering with the Readiness Center as part of Project Fortify and Fly. Here are some opportunities for working with this ministry.

+++July 8-26: Non-Violence through the Arts Volunteers needed 9-Noon, M-F

+++Hands-On projects for smaller groups (up to 10 persons) – let Pastor know if you are interested and we can put a project together

+++General Cleaning or Outdoor Work – If you have time and inclination, they will have a project for us to do. ☺ Again, contact Pastor.

FACEBOOK & WORSHIP VIDEO

We love to share pictures of Saron's ministry on our Facebook page and we get great feedback. It is our practice not to put names with the pictures. Portions of our worship are being recorded for the purpose of sharing with those who are not able to attend worship, particularly those who are home bound. If you have questions, or prefer your picture not to appear on a video, please contact Aaron Becker (at the camera) or Pastor.

Facilities

LAWN MOWERS NEEDED

Lawn mowers needed for the summer. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Volunteers to mow the yards instead of hiring that work out saved the church an estimated **$1,000.00+** in expenses last year. Please sign up to help the church save money on the lawn mowing and keep our grounds looking good. The church has its own lawn mower. There is a sigh-up sheet in the Narthex. If you have any questions please see or notify Bill Oleson.

Council News

Saron's Council Members – 2019

Scott Gaspari (847-373-8825) – President
Joe Ulrey (313-718-2563) – Vice President
Matt Bradley (419-306-5780) – Treasurer
Karen Johnson (269-983-2800) – Secretary
+++
Karen Hinckley (326-0688) – Worship
Brad Frey (921-8618) – Facilities
Brandon Burrow – Youth
Troy Burrow – Youth
Don Hafer (269-470-2255) - Support
Karen Johnson (269-983-2800) – Hospitality
Deanna Deaton (429-9086) - Hospitality
Kristen Harper (277-9277) – Learning, Youth
Amy Nelson (920-227-5354) – Outreach
Joe Ulrey (313-718-2563) – Fortify and Fly
Joan Oleson (983-1273) office;
983-2475 home) – Pastor

Attendance Record	
05/26/2019	*83*
06/02/2019	*78*
06/09/2019	*76*
06/16/2019	*82*
06/23/2019	*89*

SARON LUTHERAN CHURCH
510 MAIN STREET
ST. JOSEPH, MI 49085

Website: www.saronlutheran.org
Email:info@saronlutheran.org

A Congregation of:
The North/West Lower Michigan Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

July 2019

We're on Facebook! Like us at
www.facebook.com/saronlutheranchurchst.joseph

July 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group ***Pastor - vacation***	**2** 8:30 a.m. Beach Bible Study at Lions Park 6:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study ***Pastor - vacation***	**3** 9:30am Golden Hammers	**4** ***Church Office Closed*** Independence Day	**5**	6
7 Worship at 9:30a.m. with Holy Communion Children's Message 5:00 p.m. Ephesus Bible group	**8** Newsletter Articles due 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group 6:00 p.m. Support Comm. Meeting	**9** 8:30 a.m. Beach Bible Study at Lions Park 6:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study ***Pastor – vacation***	**10** 9:30am Golden Hammers 6:00 p.m. Deborah Circle dinner out ***Pastor – vacation***	**11** ***Pastor – vacation***	**12** ***Pastor – vacation***	13 ***Pastor – vacation***
14 Worship at 9:30a.m. with Holy Communion Children's Message ***Pastor – vacation***	**15** 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group 7:00 p.m. Church Council Meeting ***Pastor – vacation (back for council)***	**16** 8:30 a.m. Beach Bible Study at Lions Park 6:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study	**17** 9:30am Golden Hammers 6:00 p.m.Picnic 7:00 p.m. Worship	**18**	**19**	20
21 Worship at 9:30a.m. with Holy Communion Children's Message	**22** 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group	**23** 8:30 a.m. Beach Bible Study at Lions Park 6:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study	**24** 9:30am Golden Hammers	**25** Youth Group Meeting at Scott Gaspari home	**26**	27
28 Worship at 9:30a.m. with Holy Communion Children's Message	**29** 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group	**30** 8:30 a.m. Beach Bible Study at Lions Park 6:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study	**31** 9:30am Golden Hammers			

Saron
July Volunteer Schedule

	July 7 ***Fourth Sunday of Pentecost***	***July 14*** ***Fifth Sunday of Pentecost***	***July 21*** ***Sixth Sunday of Pentecost***	***July 28*** ***Seventh Sunday of Pentecost***
	9:30	***9:30***	***9:30***	***9:30***
Assisting minister	*Tyler Cook*	*Colleen Lundgren*	*Connie Slater*	*Dennis Lundgren*
Reader/ Intinction	*Mary Kynast*	*Dan Fortenbacher*	*Darlene Kiessel*	*Bob Deaton*
Ushers	*Fran Richards and Elizabeth Kunkel*	*Keith Stevens and Matt Bradley*	*Brad and Marilyn Frey*	*Eric and Deb Standen*
Acolytes	*Brooke Henderson*	*Molly Becker*	*Mia and Alaina Bradley*	*Grant Gacek*
Nursery Assistant	*Mary Alice Brunner*	*Lindsay Gaspari*	*Judi Huff*	*Kate Kohs*
Bldg. close	*Bob and Mary Kynast*	*Dennis and Colleen Lundgren*	*Brad and Marilyn Frey*	*Bob Hopkins*
Snacks	*Janet & Bill Oleson*	*Darlene Kiessel*	*Mary Kynast*	*Mary Alice Brunner*
Flowers	*Credo Candle by Pat Breyen*	*Peter & Karen Johnson Grandchildren's July birthdays*	*Keith Stevens in memory of Jan*	*Matt & Laurel Gacek in honor of their 27th Wedding Anniversary Aug. 1*
Mowing	*Weekend of July 4-6 Jim Manore*	*Weekend of July 11-13 Jim Manore*	*Weekend of July 18-20 Bob Deaton*	*Weekend of July 25-27 open*